

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)                      An image processing system which comprises an object pixel detecting means which determines whether relevant pixels in the character image information obtained by reading an original on which characters have been recorded are object pixels to be subjected to ~~enhancement-processing~~ processing, and carries out enhancement processing on pixels determined to be object pixels, thereby carrying out edge enhancement processing on the character image information, ~~wherein the improvement comprises that the object pixel detecting means comprises~~ comprising:

a density judgment section ~~which~~ that determines the relevant pixel to be a prospective object pixel when the density of the relevant pixel is higher than a first threshold value, which is higher than the density of ~~the~~ a background of the border of the original and not higher than the density of a thinnest line ~~in~~ from among lines ~~which~~ that form said ~~characters~~ characters, and when the density of the relevant pixel is not higher than a second threshold value, which is not lower than the density of ~~a~~ the thinnest line ~~in~~ from among lines ~~which~~ that form said ~~characters,~~ and characters; and

a thin line image detecting section which determines the relevant pixel to be a thin line pixel forming a part of a thin line image, ~~and~~

wherein the object pixel detecting means determines that the relevant pixel is an object pixel when the density judgment section determines the relevant pixel to be a prospective object

~~pixel pixel~~, and the thin line image detecting section determines the relevant pixel to be a thin line pixel.

2. (Original)           An image processing system as defined in claim 1 in which relevant pixels which have not been determined to be an object pixel are subjected to a weak enhancement processing the degree of enhancement of which is weaker than that of the enhancement processing for said edge enhancement processing.

3. (Original)           An image processing system as defined in claim 1 which further comprises a density difference calculating means which calculates the difference in density between a non-object pixel and the surrounding pixels adjacent to the non-object pixel and carries out a weak enhancement processing on the non-object pixel when the difference in density is larger than a predetermined third threshold value and does not carry out the weak enhancement processing when the difference in density is not larger than the third threshold value.